

A NEW SPECIES OF ACOURTIA (ASTERACEAE-MUTISIEAE) FROM CHIHUAHUA, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

Recent collections from the state of Chihuahua, México, reveal a new species, *Acourtia dieringeri*, which coexists with *A. thurberi* and is similar to it in some characters.

ACOURTIA dieringeri L. Cabrera, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Acourtia thurberi (A. Gray) Reveal & King similis sed caulibus glabris, foliis coriaceis, leviter subtus cinereis, phyllariis plerumque obtusatis marginibus tomentelli-ciliatis, corollis albis vel roseis, et acheniis eglanduliferis minute hispidis differt.

Erect perennial herb, with a short, brownish woolly caudex; stem solitary or few-branched, up to 1.5 m high, greenish to dark purple, glabrous, sparsely pubescent in the upper part. Leaves sessile, obovate-spatulate, 5–23 cm long, 2.5–10 cm wide (in the widest part), progressively reduced in size distally, irregularly spinulose-dentate marginally with small hairs between the teeth, auriculate to sagitate basally or even truncate in the young leaves, obtuse or acutish, apically, apiculate, coriaceous, rigid, puberulent below, with minute, sessile resin glands, usually gray-greenish, sparsely puberulent above; bract-like leaves of the flowering branches progressively reduced distally, 1–3.5 cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, with margins remotely spinulose-dentate to entire in the upper half, obscurely auriculate to truncate basally, acute-apiculate apically, puberulent, less so on the upper surface. Inflorescences of heads in compound cymes; heads short-pendunculate; involucre cylindric, narrowly turbinate in dry material, 8–10 mm long; phyllaries in 2–3 series with the outer ones obovate, acute at the apex, and the inner ones oblanceolate and longer, obtuse at the apex, both marginally scarious, ciliate-tomentulose, mucronate apically; receptacle slightly convex, with glandular trichomes. Flowers 5 (6) per head; corollas white to slightly pinkish, 9–10 mm long including the 4 mm long outer lip, with the inner lip slightly shorter; anthers 4 mm long including the sterile tips, yellow; style branches ca. 1 mm long, papillose, capitate-truncate. Achenes cylindric, 4 mm long (immature), hispidulous; pappus 8 mm long, with white, uniseriate bristles.

TYPE: MÉXICO. CHIHUAHUA: 20 km North of Basaseachic, along the Basaseachic-Yepachic dirt road, on slopes in pine-oak forest, 2150 m, 23 Aug 1988, *Cabrera & Dieringer* 628 (HOLOTYPE: TEX; ISOTYPES: ENCB, GH, MEXU).

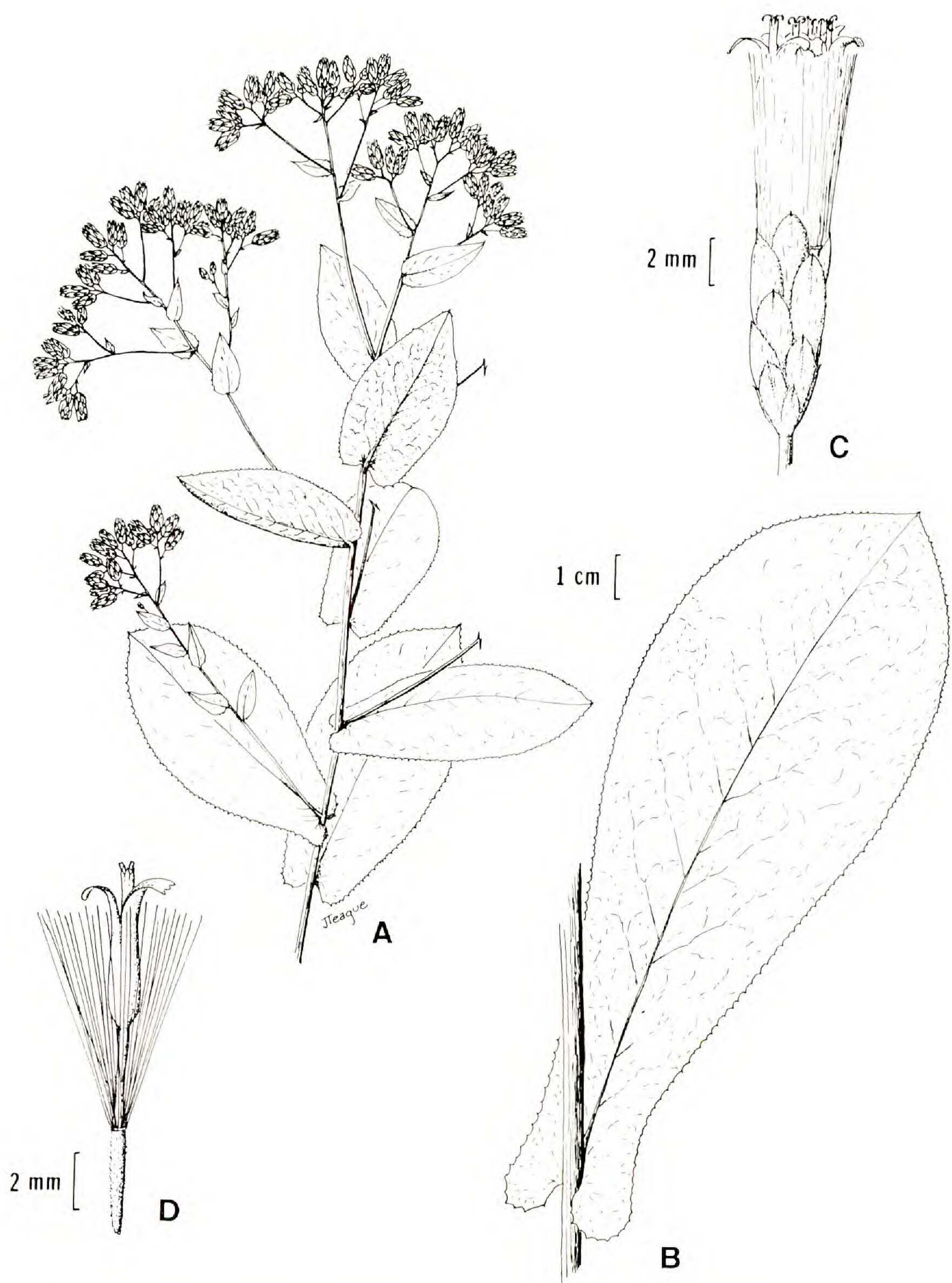


FIG. 1. *Acourtia dieringeri*: a) flowering branch; b) basal leaf showing venation; c) capitulum; d) flower with achene.

Additional collections examined: MÉXICO. CHIHUAHUA: 20 km N of Basaseachic, along the Basaseachic-Yepachic dirt road, on slopes in pine oak forest, 2150 m, 23 Aug 1988, *Cabrera & Dieringer* 629, 630, 633, 634, *Cabrera & Morgan* 631, 632, 638.

Two neighboring populations of *Acourtia dieringeri* were found coexisting with *A. thurberi*, to which it appears to be most similar. Even though the latter species has been well-characterized by Bacigalupi (1931), it can be confused in the field with the new species. The two species share a very similar habit, leaf shape, a glandular lower surface of the blade, and sometimes the number of phyllary series. *Acourtia dieringeri* differs from *A. thurberi* in having glabrous stems, coriaceous, rigid leaves with grayish blade under surfaces, mostly obtuse phyllaries with ciliate-tomentulose margins, white corollas, that are rarely obscurely pinkish, and hispidulous eglandular achenes. In contrast, *A. thurberi* has densely glandular-puberulent stems, chartaceous, green leaves, phyllaries all attenuate-acuminate with glandular margins, pink corollas, and glandular achenes.

In dry material, the leaves of *Acourtia dieringeri* resemble those of *A. platyphylla* (Gray) Reveal & King and *A. rigida* DC, but in these latter species, the leaves are completely glabrous and much more rigid than in the new species. Other characters (number and color of flowers, glandular achenes, number of phyllary series) suggest that these two species are not closely related to *A. dieringeri*.

This species is named for Dr. Gregg Dieringer who provided invaluable assistance in several field trips, looking for species of the genus *Acourtia*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Dr. Beryl B. Simpson and Dr. Guy Nesom for their critical revision to the manuscript. The field trip to Chihuahua, México, would have not been possible without the funds from a B. L. Turner Fellowship granted by the Department of Botany of the University of Texas at Austin.

REFERENCE

- BACIGALUPI, R. 1931. A monograph of the genus *Perezia*, section *Acourtia*, with a provisional key to the section *Euperezia*. Contr. Gray Herb. 97:1–81.